

CLASSIFICATION _____ SECURITY INFORMATION _____
COUNTRY East Germany REPORT _____
TOPIC General Information on the Demonstrations

EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____ 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT _____

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DATE PREPARED 15 July 1953

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____ 25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. There were no demonstrations in Eisenach on 25 June 1953. The population showed a hostile attitude toward the government; however, there were no riots, as the strike workers had planned at the EMW plant, formerly BMW, had been given away by Woels (fnu), an engineer, who made the police intervene. riots could still occur. 25X1

Kindel training area
security measures in connection with martial law. All roads from Eisenach, as well as the entrances of the surrounding villages, were occupied by VP posts. The only sentries seen in Eisenach were at the railroad station. Trucks continually patrolled the town. Railroad bridges, as well as autobahn bridges, were occupied by Soviet sentries. Between 21 and 25 June trucks, occupied by Soviet troops, patrolled the town

1 25X1

2. The demonstrations which preceded the declaration of martial law in Altenburg involved only small elements, mostly uranium workers. The posts at the railroad station, the bridges and the bank had been withdrawn after some days. After 20 June, soldiers wearing red-bordered epaulets patrolled the town and trucks patrolled the vicinity of Altenburg. These troops came from the Infanterie Kaserne. This installation, prior to 25 June, was occupied as previously by about 500 troops, including about 100 troops employed in patrol duty. Sentries in the installation were doubled. Prior to 25 June, the Artillerie Kaserne was occupied as previously by a rear detail of about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. no training activity outside of the installation after 17 June. Little drill and physical training in the barracks yard 25X1

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were observed. Sentries at the gates were reinforced since 17 June. ²

3. There were almost no demonstrations in Weimar. A strike committee had formed in the railroad car plant, and the workers did not work on 17 and 18 June. The 17 members of the committee were arrested and severe punishment was meted against some of them. [redacted] three of them were sentenced to death. Martial law was lifted on 22 June. At 7 a.m. on 18 June, all municipal buildings and the former Saukel Plant were occupied and surrounded by Soviet troops. Five armored personnel carriers, 4 armored scout cars, 8 AT guns, sedans [redacted] and trucks [redacted] were identified. 25X1
4. At 10 a.m. on 20 June, 13 trucks, including 5 towing 37-mm AA guns, were in the yard of the Lustendorf Kaserne, and 7 trucks and 2 sedans mounting machine guns were seen near the garages. Buildings Nos 6 through 11 were occupied by a hospital. Sedans [redacted] and truck [redacted] were seen en route to the installation. 25X1
5. At 10:15 a.m. on 20 June, 6 T-34 tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers, 4 armored scout cars, 8 trucks towing AT guns, and 2 sedans were seen in the yard of the Tannenberg Kaserne. A truck was in front of a vehicle shed and 30 soldiers, who received instruction, were nearby. Tank trucks [redacted] shuttled between the railroad station and the installation. 25X1
6. On 20 June, 5 canvas-covered 37-mm AA guns and small groups of soldiers totaling about 80 to 90, were seen in the yard of the Flak Kaserne. Three trucks and 2 sedans mounting machine guns were west of the garages. [redacted] 25X1
7. [redacted] the buildings west of Mohra airfield were occupied by Soviet troops. In May, the buildings had been occupied by a Jugenderziehungsanstalt. Thirteen trucks, including 2 loaded with ammunition, were seen between the buildings. [redacted] 25X1
Six tents were in the woods south of the airfield. Seventy to 80 soldiers were lined up between the tents and 2 radio trucks, 5 x 37-mm AA guns and 7 trucks were seen nearby. Sentries patrolled the woods. The four 85-mm AA guns previously observed east of the airfield, were west of the airfield. Ten to 15 soldiers were seen with each gun. They engaged in aiming practice, moving the barrel with their hands. Trucks [redacted] and sedans [redacted] were seen en route to the Fliegerhorst installation. At about 7:30 a.m. on 19 June, 6 T-34 tanks, [redacted] 2 trucks loaded with ammunition and 2 sedans occupied by officers passed through the town of Weimar, presumably toward the Tannenberg Kaserne. Except for the soldiers employed in the occupation of the town, there were no indications for an increase of troops stationed in the military installations of the post. ³ 25X1
8. On 17 June, 24 heavy tanks [redacted] and [redacted] 10 to 12 trucks, occupied by about 100 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and steel helmets and armed with rifles and submachine guns, were seen en route from Grimma toward Leipzig. Beginning 17 June, heavy traffic, involving armored scout cars, trucks mounting four-barreled machine guns, trucks towing guns, and field kitchens, was observed on Highway No 176 between Grimma and Leipzig. ⁴ 25X1
9. On 18 June, the Neue Kaserne in Aue was occupied by about 200 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, 8 trucks, 3 sedans and about 10 dogs. The installation was fully lighted after nightfall. A soldier with a field telephone was at the gate, in addition to the sentry stationed there. Another sentry was seen on the tower. At about 6:55 p.m., five soldiers with submachine guns, and 5 dogs were seen at the guardhouse. At 7:05 p.m., 24 soldiers were seen at the guardhouse, ready to march out. [redacted] occupied by Trucks [redacted] troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, were seen en route to the installation. ⁵ 25X1

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10. On 16 June, demonstrations started in Gera. On 17 June, martial law was declared at noon. Small groups of soldiers armed with rifles and submachine guns and each group escorted by an armored vehicle were seen in the streets. These groups totaled about 200 to 250 soldiers. [redacted] 25X1
- eight persons were wounded in the disturbances. Some of the enterprises were still on strike. Workers of the major plants resumed work on 20 June. About 250 persons were arrested. On 21 June, mixed patrols of Soviet soldiers and VP were seen in the town. Sentries at the gates of the Reuss Kaserne were doubled. On 17 June, details were detached from this installation. In the afternoon, four machine gun crews and a T-34/85 tank from the Tinz Kaserne were seen in the installation, which was occupied by about 50 soldiers. Trucks [redacted] occupied by troops, left the installation for patrols. The bulk of the employed troops had come from the barracks installation in Tinz. Eight armored vehicles from this installation were employed in the town, 1 armored vehicle was detached to the Reuss Kaserne and 3 armored vehicles were still in the barrack installation in Tinz. Trucks [redacted] occupied by troops were seen leaving the installation. [redacted] 25X1

1. [redacted] Comment [redacted] the corps troops of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps and the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div [redacted] at present, engage in practices at the Kindel troop training grounds [redacted] 25X1

. The information fails to indicate arrivals or return movements of troops in connection with the riots in June.

2. [redacted] Comment.

. The motorized patrols belong to the 38th Army AT Army Brig, the bulk of which is at the post.

3. [redacted] Comment.

only elements of the 65th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div, in addition to the AAA guns of the 13th AAA Div which had remained at the post, were employed in Weimar. Tank units of the abovementioned regiment had arrived from Chrduruf on 20 June. [redacted] 25X1

4. [redacted] Comment.

[redacted] this tank unit belongs to the 64th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 8th Gds Mecz Div from Grimma. According to confirmed observations, the regiment had been at the Koenigsbrueck troop training grounds prior to this employment. Indicative of the Soviet estimate of the situation in Leipzig is the fact that the Soviets deemed it necessary to call out heavy tanks which had to cover a distance of more than 120 km by road.

5. [redacted] Comment. Other reports, too, indicated that there were no major demonstrations in the uranium mining district.

6. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the tanks employed in Gera belonged to the known but unidentified tank unit of the Eighth Gds Army stationed in the Tinz Kaserne. [redacted] 25X1

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